

What is Claimed:

1. A method of presenting at least one definition for a dictionary entry, which includes:

providing a dictionary entry, which has been encountered when embedded within a grammatical unit;

providing the grammatical unit;

performing a contextual analysis of the dictionary entry when embedded within the grammatical unit; and

presenting the at least one definition for the dictionary entry, based on the contextual analysis.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the grammatical unit is selected from the group consisting of a simple sentence, a compound sentence, a clause, a phrase, and a combination thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting the at least one definition includes presenting at least one definition in accordance with the function of the dictionary entry, when embedded within the grammatical unit.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the presenting the at least one definition further includes generating at least one definition, when the function of the dictionary entry, when embedded within the grammatical unit, is not listed in an ordinary dictionary.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting the at least one definition further includes narrowing down definition choices based on contextual clues.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting the at least one definition further includes narrowing down definition choices based on a comparison with an exposure basis.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting the at least one definition includes presenting several definitions for the dictionary entry, and ranking the several definitions, in accordance with their likelihood when embedded within the grammatical unit, based on the contextual analysis.
8. The method of claim 1, and further including presenting additional definitions, not based on the contextual analysis, for general background knowledge, and denoting the additional definitions as not based on the contextual analysis.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting the at least one definition includes presenting at least one translation to a second language, for the dictionary entry, based on the contextual analysis of the grammatical unit.
10. The method of claim 1, performed by a device selected from the group consisting of a supercomputer, a personal computer, a laptop, a palmtop, a stand-alone, hand-held computerized scanning apparatus, a hand-held scanning apparatus operative with a computerized device, and a microphone operative with a computerized device.
11. The method of claim 1, performed by interacting with a web site.
12. A stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, which includes:

a body, having a proximal end with respect to a portion of text, in a first language;

a scanner, located within the body, substantially at the proximal end, adapted for scanning the portion of text, in the first language, wherein the portion of text is selected from the group consisting of at least one phrase, at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof;

a computerized system, located within the body, in communication with the scanner, adapted for performing:

OCR conversion of the scanned portion of text; and
contextual analysis of phrases, clauses and sentences, in the first language; and

a user-interactive feature, in communication with the computerized system, adapted for marking a dictionary entry embedded within a grammatical unit, the grammatical unit being selected from the group consisting of a phrase, a clause and a sentence, in the portion of text.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, and further including at least one output system, in communication with the computerized system, for presenting at least one definition for the dictionary entry, based on a contextual analysis of the grammatical unit.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one definition includes at least one definition in accordance with the function of the dictionary entry, when embedded within the grammatical unit.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one definition includes several definitions for the dictionary entry, ranked in accordance with their likelihood, when embedded in the grammatical unit, based on the contextual analysis.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one definition includes at least one translation to a second language, for the dictionary entry, based on the contextual analysis of the grammatical unit.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, adapted for presenting additional definitions, not based on the contextual analysis, for general background knowledge, and further adapted for denoting the additional definitions as not based on the contextual analysis.

18. A stand-alone, hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, which includes:

a body, having a proximal end with respect to a portion of text, in a first language;

a scanner, located within the body, substantially at the proximal end, adapted for scanning the portion of text, in the first language, wherein the portion of text is selected from the group consisting of at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof; and

a computerized system, located within the body, in communication with the scanner, adapted for performing:

OCR conversion of the scanned portion of text; and

automatic translation of a grammatical unit, selected from the group consisting of at least one clause, at least one sentence, at least two sentences, and a combination thereof, to a second language.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, and further including at least one output system, in communication with the computerized system, for providing the automatic translation.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the automatic translation of the grammatical unit further includes at least two versions of automatic translation of the grammatical unit, for a user to choose from.